Section 7041
(October 2002)

**FIRST RESPONDER OPERATIONS   7041
INVOLVING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**
(October 2002)

The following is intended to provide those First Responders to a Hazardous Materials Incident with the information needed to respond safely and competently within appropriate level, resources and capabilities at the scene of a suspected or actual hazardous materials release. Furthermore, it outlines the role, responsibilities and primary tasks of a First Responder in the process of mitigating a Hazardous Materials Incident. First Responders respond and take actions in a defensive posture in supporting any Hazardous Materials Incident. First Responders at the Operational Level respond to a Hazardous Materials release to protect nearby persons, environment and property - trained to act in a *defensive* fashion without attempting aggressive offensive actions in order to stop the release.

Operational Priorities for any hazardous materials release or incident include the Protection of *Life, Environment* and *Property*

Primary Immediate Actions of the First Responder include:

- *Safety* of responders and bystanders
- *Isolate* the incident and Deny Entry into incident scene
- *Notifications* to be made to dispatch in the form of <u>information</u> (report on conditions) and <u>request</u> for resources.

Additional tasks and operational considerations of First Responders operating at the scene of a Suspected or Actual Hazardous Materials may include:

- First Operational thought is <u>ALWAYS</u> Safety. Attempt to stay Upwind, Uphill and Upstream from the incident. Advise other incoming units of safe routes. Riverside County S.O.P. minimum distance is 300ft from the incident.
- Isolate and deny entry. Engine companies set up the perimeter around the incident. HazMat Team set up the ZONES.
- Make a concise report on conditions to the ECC. They will be able to notify cooperating agencies.
- Set Up Unified Command with the cooperating agency/agencies
- Gather pertinent information (i.e. Placards, shipping papers, MSDS, Vessel type.) Use the Emergency Response Guidebook Orange section. This section provides safety recommendations.
- All personnel at scene will have donned proper protective equipment (SCBA are 10,000 times more effective than Air Purifying Respirators.) Turnouts have a limited protective quality on a HazMat Incident.

- After risk analysis has been made, prioritize tasks in order of importance. Rescue attempts must be weighed heavily with the risk vs. gain protocols.
- Then, Containment of the HazMat spill can be attempted. Special efforts should be made to keep spills out of storm drains and further spreading (diking, damming, diverting, etc.)
- Consideration will be made of populated surrounding areas. Continue risk analysis of potential hazard and determine the most appropriate Protective Action to take (Shelter-In-Place or Evacuation.)
- Constant evaluation and Re-evaluation of products involved in the incident is the responsibility of the IC along with any site-specific concerns. HazMat team may be contacted while in route for any technical support.
- Reportable Quantities: Past practice was to report spills to the state which were over 42 gallons (the size of a barrel of crude oil.) Current standards are to notify the HazMat team with any amount that has been spilled. The determination of the response level will be done on case-by-case basis. The HazMat team will make the notification to the state.
- A First Responders should be prepared to assume Incident Command, establish the Incident Command Post, and manage the incident until a designated Incident Commander arrives.
- All suspected employee exposures should be immediately reported to the Incident Commander and properly documented by the employee.

TACTICS   7041.1
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To be written.

EXPOSURE REPORTING, DECONTAMINATION   7041.2
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To be written.